

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for determining the state of bank notes wherein data of at least two different properties of the bank notes are evaluated, comprising linking ~~characterized in that~~ the data of the at least two different properties of each bank note ~~are linked~~ with each other, and deriving the state of the bank note ~~is derived~~ from the linked data of the different properties.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the at least two different properties are linked by means of a linear combination.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ an average is determined for each of the different properties for a set of bank notes to determine the state of the set of bank notes for the particular different property.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~any of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that~~ an average is determined for the linked properties for a set of bank notes to determine the overall state of the set of bank notes.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~any of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that~~ the different properties of the bank notes relate to soiling and/or spots and/or limpness and/or tears and/or adhesive tape and/or dog-ears and/or holes and/or missing parts of the bank notes.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for determining the state of bank notes, comprising ~~having~~ sensors ~~(31, 32, 33)~~ for detecting data of at least two different properties of the bank notes, and a control device ~~(35)~~ for determining the state of the bank notes from the data of the at least two different properties of the bank

notes, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the control device is arranged to link ~~(35) links~~ the data of the at least two different properties of each bank note with each other, and the control device is arranged to derive the state of the bank note ~~is derived by the control device (35)~~ from the linked data of the different properties.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the control device ~~(35) links~~ the at least two different properties by means of a linear combination.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein ~~or 7,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ the different properties of the bank notes relate to soiling and/or spots and/or limpness and/or tears and/or adhesive tape and/or dog-ears and/or holes and/or missing parts of the bank notes.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein ~~any of claims 6 to 8, characterized in that~~ the apparatus comprises ~~is formed by~~ a bank note processing machine.